

ADVANCED RUSSIAN COMPOSITION AND CONVERSATION

RUS 380C #44850/ RUS 326 #44810

Fall 2011

Instructor: Dr. Bella Bychkova Jordan

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Office hours: Wednesday 11:00-3:00 and by appointment in Calhoun 3

Course description: This course is designed to teach advanced writing and oral communication skills in the Russian language based on both traditional approach to grammatical and lexical studies of the language and innovative use of current Russian media, including newspaper and magazine articles, news programs, DVD clips and short films. The goal of the course is to help students learn how to master both formal and informal knowledge of contemporary Russian and ability to discuss the most important issues of the Russian society. These will include Russian current political issues, socio-economic development, demographic and health problems, ecological challenges, and everyday life.

Course requirements: students will be given assignments on a weekly basis, including:

- 1) Writing assignments on topics given by the instructor – double-spaces 12 font typed assignments for graduate students – 2 page long, for the undergraduates – 1 page long;
- 2) Oral assignments allowing discussion during class time – once a week;
- 3) By the end of the semester students will give one final oral paper on a topic chosen by a student and approved by the instructor.

Course grading:

1. 12 take home written assignments – 60% of the final grade, each worth 5 points.
2. Participation and discussion in the class – 24%.
3. Final oral presentation – 16%.

Course materials: all course materials will be provided by the instructor before the assignments in advance.

Course prerequisite: 3 years of advanced level Russian courses.

Course schedule

Aug 25	Introduction to the course
Aug 30	Topic 1: Grammar: Verbs of Movement
Sep 1	Topic 2: Grammar: Ways of Expressing <i>to be</i> / Assignment # 1 due
Sep 6	Topic 3: Grammar: Verbs of Location and Position /Assignment #2 due
Sep 8	Topic 4: Grammar: Ways of Expressing <i>to have</i>
Sep 13	Topic 5: Grammar: Verbal Aspects / Assignment # 3 due
Sep 15	Topic 6: Grammar: Relative Causes and Participles
Sep 20	Topic 7: Grammar: Expressing Causal Relations / Assignment # 4 due
Sep 22	Topic 8: Grammar: Expressing Conditional Relations
Sep 27	Topic 9: “Geography and Demography in Russia” / Assignment # 5 due
Sep 29	Topic 9: Discussion and exercises
Oct 4	Topic 10: “Russian Education System” /Assignment # 6 due
Oct 6	Topic 10: Discussion and exercises
Oct 11	Topic 11: “Political Life: Government Structure, Parties and Elections,” /Assignment # 7 due
Oct 13	Topic 11: Discussion and exercises
Oct 18	Topic 12: “Ecology: Environmental Pollution Cases” / Assignment # 8 due
Oct 20	Topic 12: Discussion and exercises

Oct 25	Topic 13: “Russia’s Foreign Relations” / Assignment # 9 due
Oct 27	Topic 13: Discussion and exercises
Nov 1	Topic 14: “War on Drugs in Russia” / Assignment # 10 due
Nov 3	Topic 14: Discussion and exercises
Nov 8	Topic 15: “Language Education” / Assignment # 11 due
Nov 10	Topic 15: Discussion and exercises
Nov 15	Topic 16: “Traveling in Russia” /Assignment # 12 due
Nov 17	Graduate student presentations and discussion
Nov 22	Undergraduate student presentations and discussion
Nov 24	Thanksgiving – No class
Nov 29	Undergraduate student presentations and discussion
Dec 1	Undergraduate student presentations and discussion
Dec 6	Epilogue

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!